

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 071820
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 071820

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PPDC, LI

SUBJECT: ZIMBABWE AND THE HORN OF AFRICA

REF: MONROVIA 1710

1. PLEASE PASS THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT CARTER TO PRESIDENT TOLBERT IN RESPONSE TO REFTEL. QUOTE: DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: THANK YOU FOR YOUR MESSAGE OF ENCOURAGEMENT CONCERNING OUR EFFORTS TO HELP SOLVE THE DIFFICULT PROBLEMS OF ZIMBABWE.

2. I COULD NOT AGREE MORE THAT THE TASK WE NOW FACE IS TO ENGAGE ALL THE CONCERNED PARTIES IN EFFORTS TO BRIDGE THEIR DIFFERENCES. I SHARE WITH YOU THE GOAL OF A SETTLEMENT WHICH PROVIDES FOR A GENUINE AND FAIR TRANSFER OF POWER TO THE MAJORITY. THE UNITED STATES HAS REFRAINED FROM
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 071820

CONDEMNING THE SALISBURY NEGOTIATIONS, BECAUSE WE FEEL THAT THIS WOULD NOT FOSTER A SPIRIT OF RECONCILIATION AMONG THE PARTIES. INSTEAD, WE HAVE ACKNOWLEDGED AS POSITIVE THOSE ELEMENTS OF THE SALISBURY AGREEMENT WHICH ARE CONSISTENT WITH THE PRINCIPLES OF THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSAL, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME STATING THAT THE AGREEMENT IS CLEARLY INADEQUATE AS AN OVERALL SETTLEMENT.

3. IT IS HIGHLY IMPORTANT THAT OTHER NATIONS, PARTICULARLY OAU MEMBERS, USE THEIR INFLUENCE TO ENCOURAGE FLEXIBLE ATTITUDES ON THE PART OF THE VARIOUS PARTIES. WE ARE DISAPPOINTED WITH THE NEGATIVE RESPONSE TO OUR SUGGESTION FOR AN EARLY MEETING OF THE PRINCIPAL PARTIES TO THE DISPUTE. HOWEVER, WE INTEND TO CONTINUE OUR EFFORTS TO BRING THIS ABOUT.

4. I AM PLEASED THAT YOU SHARE OUR DESIRE FOR SUCH A MEETING, AND APPRECIATE THAT YOU HAVE STEADFASTLY ENDORSED THE PATH OF NEGOTIATIONS AS THE BEST WAY TO REACH A FAIR SETTLEMENT. I KNOW THAT WE CAN CONTINUE TO RELY ON YOUR WISDOM AND CANDOR IN THIS MATTER.

5. IN PURSUIT OF THE RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF PEACE AND STABILITY IN THE HORN, WE CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE EFFORTS OF THE OAU MEDIATION COMMISSION TO SUCCEED IN ITS EFFORTS TO BRING ETHIOPIA AND SOMALIA TOGETHER TO SEEK A DURABLE AND JUST SOLUTION OF THEIR PROBLEMS. I AM CONFIDENT THAT YOUR GOVERNMENT WILL BE ABLE TO FURTHER THOSE EFFORTS.

6. THE UNITED STATES REMAINS SERIOUSLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE DANGER POSED TO THE PEACE AND STABILITY OF THE REGION BY THE EXCESSIVE PRESENCE OF THE SOVIET AND CUBAN COMBAT FORCES IN ETHIOPIA. WE HAVE MADE CLEAR TO SOVIET
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 STATE 071820

AUTHORITIES THAT WE EXPECT, AS A CONSEQUENCE OF THE DEPARTURE FROM ETHIOPIAN TERRITORY OF SOMALI FORCES, THAT AN EARLY AND SIGNIFICANT WITHDRAWAL OF SOVIET ADVISORS AND CUBAN COMBAT FORCES SHOULD FOLLOW. WE ALSO BELIEVE THAT THE SOVIET UNION AND CUBA, WHO ARE PLAYING SUCH AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE OGADEN, HAVE A PARTICULAR RESPONSIBILITY TO INSURE THAT THE PACIFICATION OF THE REGION PROCEEDS WITH MAGNANIMITY.

7. I LOOK FORWARD TO MEETING WITH YOU SHORTLY. WE CAN THEN CONTINUE OUR INTERCHANGE IN THE SPIRIT OF COOPERATION AND GOOD WILL WHICH CHARACTERIZES THE SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. SINCERELY, UNQUOTE.

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